

ENDEMIC DISEASES

Role of endemic diseases and other factors

TB skin and gamma-interferon testing may result in a cross reaction due to the presence of MAP (*Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes Johne's Disease). Studies have suggested that the presence of MAP may reduce the sensitivity of the test, so that there is a reduced ability to detect TB infected animals. For this reason it is recommended that animals should be sampled (blood or milk) for Johne's Disease testing before the first day of TB testing or at least three months after TB testing.

If an animal's immune system is compromised, for example during the early post-calving period or due to infection with Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), it may be less likely to react to the skin test. Vitamin D is also recognised as an important factor in controlling immune responses and therefore its role may be important in reducing the severity of disease in infected cattle.